

George Washington loved Maryland and its capital city, Annapolis, and that affection was reciprocated. As I stroll through the little city which remains the seat of our State government, I see dozens of reminders that here George Washington dined, here he danced, here he attended the theater, here he went to the races, here he talked with friends, here he slept.

My own executive office in the old State House in Annapolis is just above the legislative chamber in which occurred one of the most dramatic events of George Washington's life and one of the really significant events of the early history of our nation—his resignation as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. And so, although the memory of Washington is kept alive everywhere in this country, we believe it survives with unusual vividness in Maryland.

From his home in Mount Vernon, Washington could look across the Potomac River to the green shores of Maryland. As a young man he made frequent trips across that river to Maryland. The record itself shows 20 visits to Annapolis alone, and there is reason to believe that there were many others not recorded.

Annapolis in Washington's day was a gay, charming and urbane city—a "capital" in every sense of the word, although, of course, it was a small city. There George Washington as a young man went seeking diversion and recreation—to attend the races, a ball, the theater, to talk with friends. Annapolis was his favorite stopping place in his travels between Mount Vernon and Philadelphia, where the Congress was meeting.

There were connections with other parts of Maryland too, and we recall that as a young surveyor he was commissioned by Governor Dinwiddie, of Virginia, to survey the great Potomac Valley. At Fort Mount Pleasant, later named Fort Cumberland, in what now is the city of Cumberland, he first took command of troops as a young officer in the Virginia militia in the French and Indian War. But there are two events in his life which have made especially deep impressions upon Marylanders—both of them occurring in Annapolis. One of them came at the very apex of his military career. Cornwallis had surrendered to the Continental Army at Yorktown. After all the many frustrations he and the men under him had suffered in that struggle, here at Valley Forge and elsewhere, he had won the war with the British and established independence for the country he loved so much. After he had completed the details of the surrender at Yorktown, Washington set out for Philadelphia to appear in person before the Congress and to receive its congratulations. To be sure, en route he